They are so poised and they have such a sense of rhythm that they do not miss a step and they stamp the ground with such energy that the earth trembles. They are so inflamed and fierce that this spectacle is awe-inspiring. The women and children join in these dances and songs. They perform these figures and changes with so many nods and grimaces that this is a ridiculous thing....

Generally they do not move from the place where they stand, but remain in a circle and they move their bodies, their feet and their hands. It is impossible to understand the words of their songs, but the Fathers told me that they sang couplets referring to the deeds and massacres accomplished by their forefathers. They imitate birds, serpents and other animals, things that are sung to stimulate their fighting spirit. They improvise these couplets and the women are distinguished improvisers.

10: Cardim--272 (1583) 1939 Tupinamba
116, 622, 537

In each oca (house) there is a chief whom they respect in a certain way (though there are others who are more or less respected). He exhorts them to work in their fields and do other things, etc. to go to war. They respect him in everything. He exhorts them in the form of sermons. He starts at dawn when lying in his hammock, and continues for half an hour. Then he gets up and goes round the village continuing his exhortations which he gives aloud with a calm voice, repeating the same words. Among these chiefs and preachers there are old men with a great name and authority and their reputation spreads in the bush as far as three or four hundred leagues and even more. They esteem a good orator so much that they call him the lord of the language. He has the power of life and death in his hands and he can take life whenever he wishes without opposition. When they want to know whether a man is a great orator, they gather to see if they can make him tired and they speak the whole night with him and sometimes two or three days without feeling tired.

10: Cardim--274 (1583) 1939 Tupinamba
116, 854, 857, 524

There is nothing that fathers love more than their children and if one is good to the latter, he may be sure that he has made friends of the fathers. The mothers carry the babies in a piece of netting called typoia (baby sling). Generally they carry them on their backs or astride on their hips. They take them wherever they go and they even work with the children on their backs on calm, sunny or rainy days. They never punish the children. There are parents who in their life time have never chastised their children, so much do they love them. Even small children are very obedient to their parents and are nice and pleasant. They have a great many games of their own which they play with more gaiety and joy than the Portuguese children. In these games they imitate birds, serpents, and other animals and these are graceful and amusing games. There are no quarrels, no complaints or disputes among them and you do not hear jests, bad or dishonest words.

10: Cardim--275 (1583) 1939 Tupinamba
116, 481, 515, 844

Though covered with perspiration they go into the water. Men, women and children on getting up go to the river to wash themselves and swim, however cold it might be. Women swim and paddle like men and when they give birth they go to the rivers to wash themselves.